Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Withdrawn): An isolated polynucleotide encoding a plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens.

Claim 2. (Withdrawn): A vector comprising the polynucleotide of claim 1.

Claim 3. (Withdrawn): A composition of matter comprising a gold particle coated with a plurality of vectors according to claim 2.

Claim 4. (Withdrawn): A composition comprising the vector of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 5. (Withdrawn): A composition comprising at least two polynucleotides, wherein each polynucleotide encodes one *M. tuberculosis* antigen.

Claim 6. (Withdrawn): A composition according to claim 5 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended): A method for eliciting an immune response against *M. tuberculosis* in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a vector construct, wherein the vector construct ~~that has inserted therein~~ comprises a recombinant polynucleotide comprising ~~containing~~ a plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering said vector construct to the subject whereby said antigens are expressed in the subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 7, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding said

plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens, or the secondary composition contains said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens ~~in peptide or protein form~~.

Claim 9. (Cancelled).

Claim 10. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a M. tuberculosis protein.

Claim 12. (Cancelled).

Claim 13. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 8, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

Claim 14. (Original): The method of claim 13, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented): A method for eliciting an immune response against *M. tuberculosis* in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining a composition containing a plurality of recombinant polynucleotides each comprising a sequence encoding a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering the composition to the subject whereby each said antigen is expressed in the subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 15, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains nucleic acid molecules encoding said *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen, or the secondary composition contains said *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen ~~in peptide or protein form~~.

Claim 17. (Cancelled).

Claim 18. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a *M. tuberculosis* protein.

Claim 20. (Cancelled).

Claim 21. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

Claim 22. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

Claim 23. (Original): The method of claim 7 or claim 15, wherein the administering is transdermal administration.

Claim 24. (Original): The method of claim 7 or claim 15, wherein the subject is human.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended): A method for eliciting an immune response to *M. tuberculosis* in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) providing a core carrier with a vector construct, wherein the vector construct ~~that has inserted therein~~ comprises a recombinant polynucleotide comprising ~~containing~~ a plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering the coated core carrier to the subject using a particle-mediated delivery technique, wherein the *M. tuberculosis* antigens are expressed in the subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein the core carrier has an average diameter of about 0.5 to about 5 μm and a density sufficient to allow delivery into the subject.

Claim 27. (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein the core carrier is comprised of a metal.

Claim 28. (Original): The method of claim 27, wherein the metal is gold.

Claim 29. (Original): The method of claim 25, wherein step (b) is repeated.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 25, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens, or the secondary composition contains said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens ~~in peptide or protein form~~.

Claim 31. (Cancelled).

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, where in the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a *M. tuberculosis* protein.

Claim 34. (Cancelled).

Claim 35. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

Claim 36. (Original): The method of claim 35, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented): A method for eliciting an immune response to *M. tuberculosis* in a subject, said method comprising:

(a) providing a core carrier coated with a composition containing a plurality of recombinant polynucleotides each comprising a sequence encoding a *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigen operably linked to control sequences suitable for expression in the subject; and

(b) administering the coated core carrier to the subject using a particle-mediated delivery technique, wherein the *M. tuberculosis* antigens are expressed in the subject at sufficient levels to elicit an immune response.

Claim 38. (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein the core carrier has an average diameter of about 0.5 to about 5 μm and a density sufficient to allow delivery into the subject.

Claim 39. (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein the core carrier is comprised of a metal.

Claim 40. (Original): The method of claim 39, wherein the metal is gold.

Claim 41. (Original): The method of claim 37, wherein step (b) is repeated.

Claim 42. (Currently Amended): The method of claim 37, further comprising administering at least one secondary composition in a boosting step to said subject wherein the secondary composition contains one or more nucleic acid molecules encoding said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens, or the secondary composition contains said plurality of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* antigens ~~in peptide or protein form~~.

Claim 43. (Cancelled).

Claim 44. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 42, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one culture filtrate protein antigen of *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 45. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 42, wherein the secondary composition comprises at least one isolated subunit of a *M. tuberculosis* protein.

Claim 46. (Cancelled).

Claim 47. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 42, wherein the secondary composition comprises a live attenuated vaccine derived from a *Mycobacterium* species.

Claim 48. (Original): The method of claim 47, wherein the live attenuated vaccine is BCG.

Claim 49. (Original): The method of claim 25 or claim 37, wherein the subject is human.

Claim 50. (Withdrawn): A method of eliciting an immune response in a subject, said method comprising transfecting cells of the subject with a polynucleotide encoding at least two *M. tuberculosis* antigens, wherein said transfecting is carried out under conditions that permit expression of said antigens within said subject, and said expression is sufficient to elicit an immune response against *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 51. (Withdrawn): A method of eliciting an immune response in a subject, said method comprising transfecting cells of the subject with a cocktail of polynucleotides, each polynucleotide of the cocktail encoding one or more *M. tuberculosis* antigens, wherein said transfecting is carried out under conditions that permit expression of said antigens within said subject, and said expression is sufficient to elicit an immune response against *M. tuberculosis*.

Claim 52. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 50 or claim 51, wherein the transfecting step is carried out *in vivo* using a particle-mediated transfection technique.

Claim 53. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 50 or claim 51, wherein the transfecting step is carried out *ex vivo* to obtain transfected cells which are subsequently introduced into said subject.

Claim 54. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 50 or claim 51, further comprising administering BCG to said subject.

Claim 55. (Withdrawn): The method of claim 50 or claim 51, wherein the subject is human.